

Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Oralis Guzman , I'm a mother, and I live in Hartford CT. I'm a member of Hartford Deportation Defense. I'm in favor of **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.**

I have many bills I haven't paid for medical care. With some of them, I have paid 20 or 50 a month, but I haven't always been able to. Many times we've had to choose between buying medicine or paying the bills, or borrowing money. They're always calling to collect on the accounts, even during the worst of the pandemic.

I owe \$6,000 to the hospital for a medical emergency I had. I had very intense headaches, I couldn't stand up and they had to take me in the ambulance. I couldn't breathe, either. When I got to the hospital, they took a long time to see me because I didn't have health insurance. I had pneumonia and I was admitted to the hospital for two days. When you don't have health insurance, they treat you as lesser in the hospital.

My husband doesn't go to the doctor and endures his pain. One time a piece of metal fell in his eye at work and he had to go to the hospital. It was so expensive that everything he earned working he had to pay to the hospital.

I haven't had a pap smear in four years because they cost me. I'm hoping there might be a program to not have to pay.

Living without health insurance gives me anxiety and depression. It makes me scared to get sick and not know what to do.

I support **Act HB6616** and I hope that the committee will vote in favor of continuing to expand Husky health insurance for our immigrant communities. Expanding to 26 years old is a great step, but we should continue forward until all ages have access.

Thank you for your time,
Oralis Guzman